

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04

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R 011651Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8190

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

COMICEDEFOR KEFLAVIK IC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, IC

SUBJECT: WILDCAT STRIKE: MIXED RESULTS

REF: REYKJAVIK 0289 (DTG 281652Z FEB 78)

1. CALL FOR GENERAL STRIKE BY LEADERS OF ICELAND'S FEDERATIONS OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR UNIONS MET WITH PARTIAL RESPONSE TODAY. SOME SEGMENTS OF ECONOMY HAVE COME TO A HALT AND OTHERS HAVE BEEN HIT, BUT FOR MOST PART DISRUPTION OF BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY HAS BEEN MODERATE.

2. BANKS, BUSINESS HOUSES AND OFFICES ARE FULLY STAFFED, DOMESTIC PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION (AIR AND SURFACE) IS OPERATIONAL, AND POSTAL AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS FUNCTIONS ARE BEING CONDUCTED AS USUAL WITH EXCEPTION OF TELEGRAPH SECTION. MEDICAL SERVICES AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES ARE OPEN AND WORKING NORMALLY; UTILITY WORKERS ARE CARRYING ON WITHOUT INTERRUPTION. MOST CUSTOMS EMPLOYEES ARE ON THE JOB ALTHOUGH PORTS ARE CLOSED BECAUSE OF ABSENCE OF DOCK AND WAREHOUSE EMPLOYEES. STATE RADIO BROADCASTING ON REGULAR

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SCHEDULE BUT TELEVISION WILL SHUT DOWN AS RESULT OF 42-41 STRIKE VOTE. BULK OF UNIVERSITY FACULTY SHOWED UP FOR CLASSES BUT MANY ELEMENTARY AND HIGHT SCHOOL TEACHRS HAVE STAYED AWAY THEREBY CLOSING SOME SCHOOLS.

3. SERIOUS SIDE OF SITUATION IS CLOSURE OF FISH MARKET AND FREEZING PLANTS (ALTHOUGH FISHERMEN NOT OB-

SERVING STRIKE), SHUT-DOWN OF NEWSPAPERS BY PRINTERS, AND HALTING OF CONSTRUCTION WORK. ALUMINUM PLANT ALSO SHUT DOWN WITH ONLY SKELETON MAINTENANCE CREW ON DUTY. ALTHOUGH MOST GAS STATIONS WERE OPEN IN MORNING, MANY HAD CLOSED BY AFTERNOON (PERHAPS AS RESULT OF PER-SUASTION BY "STRIKE GUARDS"), AND THERE APPEARED TO BE FEWER THAN NORMAL NUMBER OF TRUCKS ON THE ROAD. MILK DELIVERIES REPORTEDLY WILL BE INTERRUPTED THOUGH STORES SEEMED TO HAVE ADEQUATE STOCKS ON HAND TO WEATHER ONE OR TWO DAY INTERRUPTION OF SUPPLY. IT WAS THOUGHT THAT INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL WOULD BE SUSPENDED BECAUSE OF ABSENCE OF REFUELER'S AND SOME BAGGAGE AND CUSTOMS PERSONNEL, BUT LOFTLEIDIR FLIGHTS ARRIVED FROM CHICAGO AND EUROPE.

4. NATO BASE FUNCTIONING NORMALLY. A FEW WORKERS ARE OUT BUT GUARDS HAVE NOT SLOWED ENTRY TO BASE, CUSTOMS PERSONNEL ARE ON DUTY, AND ALL MILITARY OPERATIONS REMAIN UNAFFECTED.

5. LABOR RALLY IN DOWNTOWN REYKJAVIK MARCH 1 HAD REASONABLE GOOD, THOUGH NOT OVERWHELMING, ATTENDANCE. SEVERAL HUNDRED SPECTATORS HEARD FEDERATION LEADERS SPEAK ON LABOR "AT THE CROSSROADS" IN ITS NEED TO HAVE FULL COMPENSATION FOR INFLATIONARY INCREASES IN PRICES. SPEAKERS CONDEMNED GOI'S NEW ECONOMIC MEASURES, AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RECEIVED CROWD'S ENDORSEMENT WHEN THEY CALLED WAGE AGREEMENTS SIGNED LAST YEAR INVALID.

6. COMMENT: RESULTS OF QUOTE GENERAL STRIKE UNQUOTE CANNOT HELP BUT BE DISAPPOINTMENT TO LEFTIST LABOR LEADERS WHO ENCOURAGED THIS ILLEGAL WALKOUT, BUT IT IS TOO SOON TO CONCLUDE GOVERNMENT HAS WON ITS CAMPAIGN FOR DEFLATIONARY ECONOMIC PROGRAM.

BLAKE

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